

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO.2003-7 Caseflow Management Guidelines—is currently under review by Michigan Supreme court....Check with your court administrator.

AFFIDAVIT — A written statement of fact that is verified by oath or affirmation.

ARRAIGNMENT — In a criminal case, a pretrial court hearing at which the defendant is informed of the charges against him or her, is appointed counsel if necessary, and is permitted to plead to the charges. Pretrial motions may be made, and bail is set.

BOND — A promise or contract to do or perform a specified act(s) or to pay a penalty for failure to perform, usually guaranteed by a —surety|| who promises to pay if the —principal|| defaults, or by deposit of money as a —cash bond.|| Means basically the same as —bail|| on criminal cases.

CITATION —

The court copy (original) of the —traffic ticket|| is the citation, and also serves as the original complaint in the case.

COMPLAINT — A written accusation (under oath or upon affirmation) that a felony, misdemeanor, or ordinance violation has been committed and probable cause exists that the named person is guilty of the offense.

MOTION — An application to the court for the purpose of obtaining a certain order or decision in favor of the applicant.

MOTIONS, CALENDAR — Motions pertaining to the calendaring of court appearances in a case such as motions to continue, advance or reset.

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION — A hearing in a felony case before a district judge at which the prosecution presents evidence (the defendant and his or her counsel being present) from which the district judge decides whether there is probable cause to believe that a crime has been committed, that the defendant committed the crime and to —bind over|| or refer the defendant to the circuit court for trial. Testimony of some witnesses and presentation of some exhibits are offered at such examination.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY — A public officer whose duty is the prosecution of criminal proceedings on behalf of the people of the State of Michigan.

WARRANT — A writ or paper issued by a judge or magistrate that allows the police to arrest a person or search a place.

For a complete glossary of terms, go to the [MJI Handbook of Legal Terms](#).